

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## STATEMENT ON EFFIE LEE MORRIS

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 10, 2010*

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a longtime literary advocate and community leader, Effie Lee Morris, who died in San Francisco last November 10. On June 14, family, friends and San Francisco dignitaries will gather at the San Francisco Public Library to celebrate her lifetime of work as a librarian and advocate for underserved children and the visually impaired. They will pay tribute to her life as a visionary who recognized the power of literacy and education in overcoming racism, inequality and poverty.

Morris began her life's work as a literary activist as a public librarian in Cleveland, Ohio more than 60 years ago. Recognizing that education is the most important investment we can make in our future, she focused primarily on children's literacy in African American communities and low-income urban areas, and helped to establish the first Negro History Week. In 1955, she moved to New York City where she worked for the New York Public Library. There she continued to work with children and began advocating for the rights of the visually impaired, eventually becoming a children's specialist at the New York Public Library's Library for the Blind from 1958 to 1963.

In 1963, San Francisco was blessed when Morris arrived in our city and became the first Coordinator of Children's Services at our Public Library, where she established the Children's Historical and Research Collection. It stands in tribute to her today. The children's literature section that she created is named in her honor.

In 1968, Morris helped found the San Francisco Chapter of the Women's National Book Association and served as the first African American president of the Public Library Association.

Upon retirement, Morris continued to serve the San Francisco Bay Area community, and taught courses on children's literature at Mills College and the University of San Francisco. Morris served as the first female chairperson of the Library of Congress as well as the President of the National Braille Association for two terms. She also served on the California State Library Board, and was a lifetime member of the San Francisco African American Historical and Cultural Society.

We grieve Effie Lee Morris' passing, but celebrate her legacy, which will live on in the many lives she touched.

## RECOGNIZING COLONEL STEVEN SMITH'S SERVICE TO FORT HAMILTON

**HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 10, 2010*

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colonel Steven V. Smith, Installation Commander, at Fort Hamilton, located in my district of Brooklyn, New York. Fort Hamilton is the only active military base in New York City. Colonel Smith is leaving his post as Installation Commander to return to his alma mater, Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont to prepare the next generation of graduates and officers for the United States Military.

In 1984, Colonel Stephen V. Smith graduated from Norwich University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. Upon graduating, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Infantry. He went on to pursue a Master of Science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and a Master's of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Colonel Smith started his career at Fort Carson, Colorado, where he was a Rifle Platoon Leader, Executive Officer, and Mortar Platoon Leader, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry.

During his distinguished career, Colonel Smith was deployed to Bosnia as the 10th Mountain G4 Plans Officer. He also served as Executive Officer of the 10th Division Support Command, and the G4 (Logistics Officer) for the 10th Mountain Division where he was deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001.

In June of 2008, Colonel Smith became, Installation Commander at Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, New York. During his time at his final Military assignment, he was instrumental in providing a location for a second National Guard Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) which gave New York City's first responders a vital resource to utilize in the event of a terrorist attack.

Colonel Smith's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal (4th Oak Leaf Cluster), the Army Commendation Medal (1st Oak Leaf Cluster), the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Service and Overseas Ribbons, NATO Medal, Air Assault and Airborne badges and the Ranger Tab.

Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Colonel Smith for his service to New York City and the Fort Hamilton Community. Besides being an active base in America's largest city, Fort Hamilton is also a community treasure for the neighborhoods and people of South Brooklyn. Under Colonel Smith's leadership many community

organizations have been able to utilize the wonderful resources of this historic base and he has fostered a strong spirit of patriotism in support of our men and women in uniform throughout the broader community.

He has worked to upgrade housing on the base for active duty Members as well as rehabilitate the historic officers clubhouse which is a resource for not only the base but for many community organizations.

Colonel Smith truly represents the best and the brightest of the United States Army and he will continue to serve this Country with honors. I wish Colonel Smith, his wife Donna, daughters Elizabeth and Colleen and son Matthew the best of luck in his next pursuit. The students and faculty of Norwich University are incredibly lucky to gain the talent, dedication and leadership of my friend Colonel Stephen Smith.

## FHA REFORM ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 9, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5072) to improve the financial safety and soundness of the FHA mortgage insurance program:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5072, the FHA Reform Act, which will strengthen the rules and financial stability of the Federal Housing Administration's programs. H.R. 5072 will help tighten FHA underwriting standards, rebuild its capital reserves and assist in the recovery of the housing market. This measure has bipartisan support and has received numerous endorsements from housing and real estate organizations.

H.R. 5072 would empower FHA to improve its financial position by allowing the agency to adjust their premium structure for new borrowers, while still providing affordable mortgage insurance to the individuals FHA is intended to serve. This measure also provides FHA with enhanced authority to terminate FHA lenders if evidence of fraud or noncompliance is discovered. It will also improve FHA's internal reporting systems to better manage risk and provide transparent data to the public and to Congress.

Over the years, FHA has played a key role in supporting housing finance opportunities to underserved families and assisting first time homebuyers. Most recently, FHA has helped stabilize our housing market, and reform is needed to strengthen its solvency. FHA has already implemented an unprecedented number of credit policy and risk management changes to ensure its effectiveness and soundness and to protect the American taxpayer. The FHA Reform Act builds upon these necessary changes.

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